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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CITY

ARDMORE, THURSDAY, NOV. 15.

CHAIRMAN WILSON'S VIEWS.

The Hon. William L. Wilson of West Virginia, chairman of the House committee of ways and means, and himself a victim of unpropitious political conditions, has written a letter to the public, in which he gives his views of "the causes and forces" which wrought the overthrow of the Democratic party in this recent election. Like some other epistolary literature of contemporaneous history this letter might as well have been kept in concealment. So far as it credits the hard times, "an enemy before which no political party in America has ever been able to make a successful stand when in power," with the disaster it is within the line of reason. In so far as it blames the delay in perfecting tariff legislation with responsibility, it is within the bounds of truth. But when it assumes that departure from the schedules of the Wilson bill was a material offense against good economic policy, it enters into a speculative field that is untenable.

As between the Wilson bill and the measure that finally became a law there is little difference in the aggregate. The House bill was defective in many respects. It had the merit of providing for free coal, iron ore and sugar, and favored the fair and Democratic principle of ad valorem taxation. But it gave promise of a treasury deficit, which was in itself a fatal objection. It is questionable, therefore, if the virtues would have compensated for the vices of the measure in view of which doubt it may be claimed that the bill passed, if it had gone through in time, and because of that fact, more than for any other reason, the party has been chastised. In the face of the facts therefore and within the shadow of the disaster there is nothing to be gained by prolong a controversy that never ought to have begun.

The best bill represented to the consideration of Congress for the reform of the tariff during the recent session was that reported from the finance committee of the senate. It had its faults, and they were grave and far too numerous. But it embraced less protection than the bill passed, and contained less peril than the House bill. However, with the meagre majority in the Senate it couldn't be forced through that body, and the damage delays which the modifications required were apparently unavoidable, though to many of the Senators who supported the bill the loss of time was distasteful. It should not be forgotten, moreover, that a period of nearly two months elapsed between the time of the passage of the Senate bill and the date of its becoming a law. This was precious time and Mr. Wilson was to a considerable extent responsible for the cruel waste of it. — Kansas City Times.

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Ardmore - I. T.

Babe DeBerry

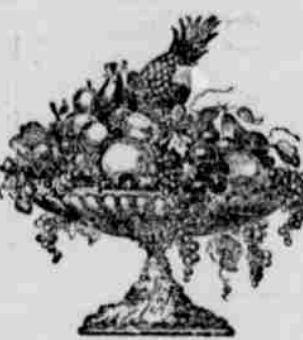
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